

Marine and Road Flares Disposal

Marine and road flares can be a problem to dispose of when outdated or no longer needed. Since flares are not accepted at household hazardous products collections and should not be thrown in household trash, what is the best method of disposal?

Residents of all Cape Cod towns can make arrangements to dispose of marine and boat flares through town fire departments, departments of public works or recycling centers.

Only hand-held marine and road flares will be accepted. Smoke flares and launched flares cannot be accepted. A list of collection locations is on the back of this sheet.

By Federal law, each recreational boat 16 feet and over must carry Visual Distress Signals (VDS). Currently, the only United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved VDS are pyrotechnic flares. All flares must have a clearly marked



expiration date, which is 42 months past the date of manufacture. Recreational boaters are required to have a minimum of three “in-date” flares on board. Therefore, every three years, boaters must purchase new flares to replace their out-of-date flares.

It is against the law to set off flares in a “non-emergency situation” (unless special arrangements are made with the USCG and local fire department). Some boaters opt to keep their out-of-date flares on board for emergencies.

With an estimated 250,000 out-of date flares generated annually in Massachusetts by boaters, it is essential that flares be safely disposed of at town collection locations.

Marine and Road Flare Collection Locations

Barnstable Fire Department 3249 Main Street	8-4 Monday-Friday	508-362-3312
Barnstable Police Department 1200 Phinney’s Lane, Hyannis	24 hrs/7 days	508-775-0387
West Barnstable Fire Department 2160 Meetinghouse Way	24 hrs/7days	508-362-3241
Bourne Fire Department 130 Main Street, Buzzards Bay	24 hrs/7days	508-759-4112
Brewster Fire Department 1657 Main Street	8-4 Monday-Friday, call first	508-896-7018
Chatham Fire and Rescue 135 Depot Road	8-6 every day	508-945-2324
Dennis Fire Department 883 Main Street Rte 28, West Dennis	24 hrs/7days	508-398-2241
Eastham Fire Department 2520 State Highway	8-4 Monday-Friday	508-255-2324
Falmouth Fire Department 399 Main Street	9-4 every day	508-548-2325
Harwich Fire Department 175 Sisson Road speak with Captain before bringing flares into station	8-4 every day	508-430-7546
Mashpee Department of Public Works 350 Meetinghouse Road	7:30-3:30 Monday-Friday	508-539-1420
Orleans Fire Department 58 Eldredge Park Way	8-4 Monday-Friday, call first	508-255-0050
Provincetown Harbormaster MacMillan Pier	9-5 every day	508-487-7030
Provincetown Police Department 26 Shank Painter Road	9-5 Monday-Friday	508-487-1212
Sandwich Fire Department 115 Route 6A	24 hrs/7days	508-888-0525
Truro Transfer Station Off Route 6	7:30-3:30 every day	508-349-6339
Wellfleet Fire Department 35 Lawrence Road	24 hrs/7days	508-349-3754
Yarmouth Fire Department 96 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth	24 hrs/7days	508-398-2212
Yarmouth Recycling & Residential Drop-off Area Gatehouse 606 Forest Road, South Yarmouth	7:30-3:30 every day	508-760-4804